



**CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**  
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT  
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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK  
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

**Week of Sep 05, 2005**

**INDIA**

**Dengue Death Reported in India**

A third death from dengue fever has been confirmed in New Delhi, India. The latest victim is a 25-year-old male. Of the three deaths, only one was infected with the virus within Delhi. The other two were infected in other areas and sought treatment in Delhi. The total number of dengue cases in India has now risen to 71.

**Source:**

· Times of India, Sep 07, 2005, <http://www1.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/1223908.cms>

**Encephalitis Toll in India Increasing**

The death toll from the Japanese Encephalitis outbreak in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, India has now reached over 600. Over 2,400 people are in critical condition in crowded and unsanitary hospitals in the state. The Voluntary Health Association predicts that the death toll may be in the thousands. The majority of those with the illness are children. Hospitals are struggling to treat patients due to a shortage of doctors, nurses and medical supplies. India does not have adequate vaccination against Japanese encephalitis and healthcare workers are concerned with the lack of action taken to help stop the spread of the disease. The outbreak began in July 2005 and was mainly in the eastern part of the Uttar Pradesh, but has now spread to the state capital of Lucknow.

**Source:**

· World News Australia, Sep 09, 2005, <http://www9.sbs.com.au/theworldnews/region.php?id=120158&region=2>

· Reuters Foundation Alertnet, Sep 07, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/B457681.htm>

· ProMED-mail, Sep 03, 2005,

[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1249994699941517397::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAGE,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1010,30285](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1249994699941517397::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,30285)

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## INDONESIA

### Indonesian Administration Concerned With Polio Vaccination Efforts

The Jakarta administration is concerned that their city-wide efforts to vaccinate children for polio may not be accomplished. Health workers went door to door this week to check for children under the age of five who missed the August 30 [2005] deadline for the vaccination, but only 87% of the targeted 923,000 children were vaccinated. Pediatricians are being partly blamed for the number of remaining unvaccinated children. Many pediatricians told parents not to take their children to vaccination stations, saying that those children had already received vaccinations. Another reason is that many parents feared the vaccine would have adverse effects on their children. As of August [2005], eight people have died from polio in Indonesia, mainly babies and young children. Another vaccination drive is scheduled for September 27 [2005].

**Source:**

· The Jakarta Post, Sep 09, 2005, <http://www.thejakartapost.com/detailcity.asp?fileid=20050908.G01&iREC=0>

## MALAYSIA

### Malaysia on Dengue Fever Alert

Due to the current outbreak of dengue fever in Singapore, the Malaysian Health Department is on high alert since the disease is also prevalent in Malaysia. Health officials are concerned because over 200,000 Malaysians work in Singapore, but live in the neighboring Malaysian city of Johor. From August 14-27 [2005], 141 cases of dengue fever have been confirmed in Johor. Through August of this year [2005], 55 deaths from the disease have been reported throughout Malaysia. This number is slightly down from the 61 recorded deaths during the same time period in 2004. Between January 1 [2005] and August 27 [2005], 24,857 cases of dengue fever have been reported to the Health Ministry.

**Source:**

· New Straits Times, Sep 03, 2005, [http://www.nst.com.my/Current\\_News/NST/Sunday/National/20050904080800/Article/indexb.html](http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Sunday/National/20050904080800/Article/indexb.html)

### Malaysian Government Orders an Increase in Polio Immunization Efforts

Local Malaysian authorities have been ordered by the government to increase their polio immunization efforts due to the outbreak of the disease in Indonesia. This decision was based on the recent World Health Organization (WHO) report on the possible spread of polio in the western Pacific region. The focus of the efforts will be on children who have not finished the three-round dose of the vaccination. Polio vaccination is required in Malaysia and it was reported last week by the government that the country was disease-free. Malaysia is following similar immunization efforts to those around the Pacific, such as in Vietnam and the Philippines.

**Source:**

· ABC Radio Australia, Sep 08, 2005, <http://www.abc.net.au/ra/news/stories/s1455881.htm>

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## NEPAL

### Encephalitis Toll in Nepal Increasing

The Japanese Encephalitis toll in the Terai region (southern part) of Nepal has risen to 286, with most of the victims being children. Fifty-seven people died while receiving treatment in hospitals, most of whom did not receive medical attention. During the past week, over 50 patients were admitted to hospitals and 12 deaths were reported. 37 of the deaths have been at Seti Zonal Hospital and 20 deaths have occurred at Tikapur Hospital. In other affected regions such as Banke, Sarlahi and Rupandehi, dozens of deaths have occurred. In the district of Dang, one of the highly affected areas, four people have died in the last three days and in one night 39 patients were admitted to Mahendra Hospital. The Nepal Red Cross Society and other NGOs have been supplying bed nets to those in impoverished communities, but health care workers say the supply is not enough.

#### Source:

· Nepal News, Sep 05, 2005, <http://www.nepalnews.com/archive/2005/sep/sep05/news10.php>

· Reuters Alertnet, Sep 08, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/ff4ae9b3e20cde6e478ce0de39e1e398.htm>

## PHILIPPINES

### Rabies Kills Woman in Southern Philippines

A woman from North Cotabato, a southern province in the Philippines, was bitten by a stray dog and died of rabies. Nine other people who butchered and ate the same dog are now being observed by health authorities out of concern they are afflicted with rabies. This case has prompted the local government to ask the regional office of the Department of Health and the provincial government for help in purchasing anti-rabies vaccines. Health officials believe that this is an isolated case. Six people from North Catabato province have died from rabies so far this year [2005].

#### Source:

· Minda News, Sep 07, 2005, <http://www.mindanews.com/2005/09/07nws-rabies.htm>

## SINGAPORE

### Outbreak of Dengue Fever in Singapore

More than 500 new cases of dengue fever have been reported in Singapore during the last week. Public hospitals have suspended all non-critical operations to focus their attention on treating patients with the disease. About 80 new infections have been reported each day, more than 60 of which require hospital treatment. Treatment for the mosquito-borne disease takes about 10 days, and hospitals are struggling to keep up with the outbreak. Singapore has had 8,854 cases of dengue fever this year [2005], which is about twice the reported amount last year [2004]. Eight people have died from the disease this year [2005]. The government is working on a public effort to control the

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spread of dengue fever. Neighboring Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines are also working to control the disease.

**Source:**

· Reuters Alertnet, Sep 08, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/SIN197124.htm>  
· M&C News, Sep 08, 2005, [http://news.monstersandcritics.com/health/article\\_1046749.php/Singapore\\_fighting\\_dengue\\_fever\\_outbreak](http://news.monstersandcritics.com/health/article_1046749.php/Singapore_fighting_dengue_fever_outbreak)

## THAILAND

### WHO Announces Thailand Only Country Prepared for Global Avian Influenza Threat

The World Health Organization reported that the world is going to face an epidemic of the avian influenza strain lethal to humans. Thailand is the only country in South and Southeast Asia prepared for the virus. It is not a question of if the bird flu epidemic will occur, but now a question of when it will occur. Officials say that the virus may mutate into an easily contagious form, leading to a rapid spread of the disease and possibly killing between one and seven million people worldwide. Thailand has accumulated a supply of anti-viral drugs. The WHO is presently helping other member countries to prepare for the epidemic. As winter approaches in Asia, migrating birds pose a risk of spreading avian influenza around the world. The number of deaths in Asia from the avian influenza this year [2005] is 63.

**Source:**

· ABC News, Sep 07, 2005, <http://www.abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=1104245>

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